

Hunter
Wine Cellars



2009 PINOT NOIR

SYLVIA'S



Winemaker: William Hunter
Production: 124 cases
Alcohol: 14.4%

The Vintage:

The growing season for 2009 was unusual in that the fruit had an excessive amount of small berries due to early shatter. West county fruit has a reputation for this but '09 showed by far more than usual which created great concentration and depth. The weather during the growing season up to vintage was cool and even, almost ideal. In late August/early September we got our typical heat spike actually two within three weeks. But once again our late ripening vineyards were able to get past this with no problems. Mid September saw some light rain, which caused no issues but mid October a huge storm rolled in and we scrambled to get everything in. However, this was of no consequence since everything was ripe by this time. Resulting wines are very similar in style and quality to 2007 but with a little more concentration.

Winemaker's Notes:

A bit less forthcoming than in the past, this year's Sylvia's has a juicy, slightly citric nose, with whortleberry, pomegranate syrup, blueberry and orange zest scents in step before toast, baking-spice and sweet tobacco-shop counterpoints: the whole concentrated and focused, but at an early stage in evolution. The wine is plush in body and both very rich and fully ripe on the palate, yet its zest holds it in tight balance as flavors of spiced cherry, blueberry, grenadine and a note suggestive of vanilla pipe tobacco roll out with hints of mushroom and forest floor on the palate. The finish is just as flavor-loaded and it's lingering, but the wines diverse elements could use a bit more time to further harmonize. It is likely to need four years plus to achieve the bright future that seems indicated, so there will be greater rewards for the patient, but those with an impulse to try it now will find that it responds well to judicious airing. 5 Barrels produced.

Technical Notes:

Bottled: December 2, 2010
Yield: 2.2 tons/acre
Total Acidity: 5.9 g/L
pH: 3.58
Alcohol: 14.4%

Grape Source:

Russian River Valley
Sylvia's Vineyard:
Dijon Clone: 115

Aging:

Twelve months in 60 gallon
French oak barrels: 67% new;
100% from Tonnellerie Sirugue

Harvest:

October 2nd at 25.75 degree Brix

Release Date:

October 1, 2011

Malolactic Fermentation:

100%

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